REMARKS

In the Office Action of December 23, 2010, all pending claims are rejected. With this paper, claims 1-6, 8, 10-18, 20 and 25-29 are amended, new claims 30-31 are added, and claims 9, 19 and 21-24 are cancelled. No new matter has been introduced with the amendment. Claims 1-6, 8, 10-18, 20, 25-29 and 30-31are now pending in the application. In order to make the amended claims easier to read, a clean copy of the amended claims is provided in the Appendix. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

**CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. With this paper, the recitation of "otherwise, inhibiting storing" in claim 4 has been deleted. Therefore, the basis for the rejection is moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1-6, 10, 12, 15-17, 19-20, 22-26 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haverinen et al. (US PGPUB 2004/0029580 A1, Haverinen hereinafter) in view of Ahmavaara et al. (US PGPUB 2004/0066756 A1, Ahmavaara hereinafter).

Claims 8-9, 11, 13-14, 18, 21 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haverinen in view of Ahmavaara and further in view of Haverinen et al. (US PGPUB 2004/006471 A1).

In the rejected claims, only claim 1 is independent. Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections.

With this paper, claim 1 is amended. The newly amended claim 1 is directed to amethod for a user equipment (UE) to select a mobile communication network to access in a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) interworking network. The method comprises, *inter alia*, the following features:

> - determining, by the UE, whether the information of the WLAN serving the WLAN UE matches information of a WLAN stored in the UE;

- if it is determined that the information of the WLAN serving the UE matches the information of the WLAN stored in the UE; returning, by the UE, a User Identity Response message to the WLAN AN, wherein the User Identity Response message carries network selection information, and wherein the network selection information is network selection information corresponding to the matched WLAN, and the network selection information indicates a mobile communication network which the UE wants to access to;

- whereby the WLAN AN forwards the authentication request message to the mobile communication network indicated in the network selection information.

In short, the present invention uses stored network selection information corresponding to the matched WLAN as network selection information to be carried when it is determined that the information of the WLAN serving the UE matches information of a WLAN stored in the UE. This way, it is guaranteed that roaming users can select a mobile communication network to access in a short time, and repeated selections of the AN at each time the UE accesses a mobile communication network can be avoided. So that the UE can select a mobile communication network to access rapidly according to its demands.

In claim 1, a match between the information of the WLAN serving the UE and information of a WLAN stored in the UE is performed. When the information of the WLAN serving the UE matches the information of a WLAN stored in the UE, stored network selection information corresponding to the matched WLAN is used as network selection information to be carried. That is, the UE selects the mobile communication network which indicated by network selection information corresponding to the matched WLAN to access according to the matching result.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner asserted that claim 1 is unpatentable over Haverinen in view of Ahmavaara. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Haverinen discloses method, system and device for service selected via a wireless local area network. Haverinen teaches that: "the method sends, from a Network Access Identifier (NAI) including a service selection indicator via a WLAN access point; receives, at an authentication server, the NAI including a service selection indicator and provides the WLAN terminal with a connection to the service indicated by said selection indicator." (Abstract)

Haverinen further teaches that: "According to one embodiment, the WLAN terminal comprises input means 204 and service selector means 206. The service selector means 206 is arranged to receive an input from the input means 204 and include a service selection indicator in the NAT. The input received from the input means 204 may, for example, be the complete service selection indicator that is to be included in the NAT or it may be a reference to a service selection indicator stored in the WLAN terminal 200. In the latter case the service selector means 206 retrieves the complete service selection indicator and includes, it in the NAT. The input means 204 may, for example, be a keyboard, a scanner, a pressure sensitive surface, a microphone combined with voice recognition, a pointing device etc." (Paragraph[0046]) That is, the service selector means 206 retrieves the service selection indicators according to the input received from the input means 204.

In Haverinen, the service selection indicators is not determined bythe matching result of the information of the WLAN serving the UE and information of a WLAN stored in the UE. Therefore, Haverinen does not disclose "determining, by the UE, whether the information of the WLAN serving the UE matches information of a WLAN stored in the UE" as recited in claim 1. Haverinen also does not disclose "returning, by the UE, a User Identity Response message to the WLAN AN, wherein the User Identity response message carries network selection information, and wherein the network selection information is network selection information corresponding to the matched WLAN".

In the Office Action, the Office acknowledged that Haverinen does not explicitly disclose "the WLAN AN is able to route an authentication request message." (page 4 of the Detailed Action)

Ahmavaara discloses network selection in a WLAN. Ahmavaara states that "the method includes storing the identification (SSID) of the at least one other network (visited PLMNs 1-3 and home PLMNs 4 and 5) in the user equipment; transmitting from the user equipment a request for connection to one of the at least one other network, which includes an identification of at least one of the at least one other network, to the wireless access network; and in response to the wireless access network receiving the identification, the user equipment is connected to the identified at least one other network through the wireless access network." (Abstract)

Ahmavaara further teaches that: "The UE always tries first to connect directly to the home network which is Home PLMN 4 which includes the UE's home location register (HLR). If the home network is not available, the UE tries to connect via preferred backbone networks.

Selection of the backbone network can be automatic, user assisted, solicited by the user equipment or done manually by the user of the UE." (Paragraph [0026]) "In cellular systems the network selection operates by the cellular networks broadcasting their public land mobile telephone (PLMN) identification (ID). The UEs may make automatic network selection based on preferences stored in a GSM subscriber identity module (SIM) or a universal identify module (USIM) made by the operator or by user. The UE allows the user to make a manual selection when the UE browses available PLMNs. The UE converts the PLMNs to user friendly network names from internal memory and the user selects the desired network." (Paragraph [0007]) That is, the automatic network selection is based on preferences stored in SIM or USIM. Meanwhile, the user can make a manual selection when the UE browses available PLMNs.

In Ahmavaara, the service selection indicators is also not determined by the matching result of the information of the WLAN serving the UE and information of a WLAN stored in the UE. Therefore, Ahmavaara does also not disclose "determining, by the UE, whether the information of the WLAN serving the UE matches information of a WLAN stored in the UE" as recited in claim 1. Haverinen also does not disclose "returning, by the UE, a User Identity response message to the WLAN AN, wherein the User Identity response message carries network selection information, and wherein the network selection information is network selection information corresponding to the matched WLAN".

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that, for at least for the foregoing reasons, a combination ofHaverinen and Ahmavaara does not discloses each and every feature of claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 2-6, 8, 10-18, 20 and 25-29 depend from claim 1 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason of their dependencies from an allowable independent claim as well as for the additional limitations.

**NEWLY ADDED CLAIMS**

Claims 30-31 have been added herein. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the originally filed application. Since the new claims contain features corresponding that of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these new claims are allowable for the same reasons applied to claim 1.

**CONCLUSION**

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejections have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the email address or telephone numbers indicated below.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any unpaid fees deemed required in connection with this submission or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **50-4983**.

Respectfully submitted,

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